

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3338

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 6887

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SUBJECT: MFA REPLY TO OUR MARCH 3 CSCE DEMARCHE

1. SUMMARY. MIKHAILOV, DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE USA DIVISION, CALLED IN THE ACTING DCM MAY THIRD TO REPLY TO OUR MARCH 3 DEMARCHE ON CSCE. MIKHAILOV TOOK PAINS TO EXPLAIN THAT THE PRESENTATION WAS MADE ON HIS LEVEL ONLY BECAUSE DEPUTY MINISTER KORNIYENKO WAS ILL. THE STATEMENT ITSELF IS NOT ENCOURAGING. IT IS HARsher IN ITS CRITICISM OF US THAN THE INITIAL SOVIET STATEMENT IN OUR CONSULTATIONS NOVEMBER 12 OF LAST YEAR; AND IT IS AT BEST LUKEWARM IN ITS REPLIES TO THE SUGGESTIONS WE MADE FOR CONSULTATIONS IN VARIOUS AREAS MARCH 3. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE SOVIETS ARE CONTENT TO MOVE SLOWLY ON THESE ISSUES AT PRESENT, AND ARE PERHAPS WAITING TO SEE WHAT DIRECTION OUR OVERALL RELATIONS TAKE IN THE COMING MONTHS BEFORE COMMITTING THEMSELVES TO ADDITIONAL STEPS UNDER CSCE. END SUMMARY.

2. MIKHAILOV CALLED IN THE ACTING DCM MAY 3 TO PRESENT TO HIM AN "ORAL STATEMENT" REPLYING TO MY PRESENTATION TO KORNIYENKO MARCH 3 ON CSCE. MIKHAILOV WAS QUICK TO
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EXPLAIN THAT DEPUTY MINISTER AND CHIEF OF THE USA DIVISION

KORNIYENKO HAD ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO MAKE THE SOVIET REPLY TO ME, BUT THAT KORNIYENKO WAS ILL AT THE MOMENT, AND THE DECISION WAS THEREFORE TAKEN TO MAKE THE DEMARCHE AT THE NEXT HIGHEST LEVEL.

3. THE STATEMENT (FULL TEXT BEING REPORTED SEPTTEL) WELCOMES U.S. READINESS, AS EXPRESSED IN OUR MARCH 3 STATEMENT, TO IMPLEMENT "FULLY AND WITHOUT EXCEPTION" THE PROVISIONS OF THE FINAL ACT. IT CONTENDS THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS BUSILY AT WORK, "THROUGH CONCRETE DEEDS AND PROPOSALS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATION IN EUROPE," AT CARRYING OUT ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER CSCE, AND REGRETS THAT NOT ALL OF ITS PARTNERS ARE FOLLOWING THE SAME CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH. INCLUDED IN THIS LATTER CATEGORY, IT SAYS, IS THE U.S., AND IT CATALOGUES OUR SINS.

4. THE U.S., IT SAYS, CONTINUES TO PLACE UNWARRANTED EMPHASIS ON BASKET III, AND AT THE SAME TIME CARRIES ON ACTIVITIES WHICH VIOLATE OTHER PRINCIPLES OF THE FINAL ACT. AMONG THE LATTER ARE THE "POLICY WHICH THE US ATTEMPTS TO FOLLOW REGARDING SEVERAL SOVIET REPUBLICS"; FAILURE TO TAKE EFFECTIVE ACTION TO PROTECT SOVIET ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE US AGAINST TERRORIST ACTS; AND, DESPITE ASSURANCES BY THE ADMINISTRATION THAT IT IS ATTEMPTING TO CHANGE DISCRIMINATORY TRADE LEGISLATION, THE FACT THAT THE TRADE SITUATION REMAINS "ABNORMAL." THE STATEMENT FURTHER CHIDES THE US FOR ALLEGEDLY BEING UNCOOPERATIVE IN THE ECE DISCUSSION OF THE SOVIET PROPOSALS ON PAN-EUROPEAN CONFERENCES ON ENERGY, TRANSPORT, AND ENVIRONMENT.

5. THE STATEMENT MAKES THE EXPECTED CRITICISM OF RADIOS LIBERTY AND FREE EUROPE, BUT ADDS THAT EVEN THE VOICE OF AMERICA VIOLATES CSCE PRINCIPLES BY BROADCASTING PROGRAMS WHOSE "CHARACTER" DIRECTLY CONTRADICTS THE GOALS OF CSCE.

6. THE SECOND PART OF THE STATEMENT ADDRESSES OUR MARCH 3 DEMARCHE DIRECTLY. IT SAYS THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT "HAS NOTHING AGAINST" DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN MFA AND THE

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EMBASSY ON VISA QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ISSUANCE OF MULTIPLE ENTRY VISAS TO "AN ADDITIONAL CATEGORY" OF CITIZENS, BUT ADDS THAT THE PROBLEM OF CONTINUING INSTANCES OF VISA REFUSALS OR DELAYS IN ISSUANCE OF VISAS TO SOVIET CITIZENS BY THE US REQUIRES NO SPECIAL CONSULTATION TO SOLVE. IT DENIES THAT THERE HAS BEEN ANY REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF "FAVORABLE SOLUTIONS" TO FAMILY REUNIFICATION AND MARRIAGE CASES, AS ALLEGED IN OUR MARCH 3 DEMARCHE, AND ASSERTS

THAT MFA WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS FURTHER, "IF NECESSARY," JOURNALISTS WORKING CONDITIONS, THOUGH IT CLAIMS THE US IS ALREADY AWARE OF THE STEPS THAT HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT IN THAT AREA. ON FURTHER CONSULTATIONS ON TOURISM, IT ASSERTS THAT REGULAR US-SOVIET CONTACTS ARE ALREADY TAKING PLACE, IF THE US HAS FURTHER "CONCRETE CONSIDERATIONS" IN MIND, THE SOVIET SIDE IS READY TO EXAMINE THEM "THROUGH THE USUAL PROCEDURE."

7. IT ADDS THAT THE US DECISION TO OPEN ADDITIONAL AREAS IN SEVERAL STATES TO TRAVEL BY SOVIET CITIZENS, AS WELL AS US DESIRES EXPRESSED IN OUR MARCH 3 STATEMENT FOR RECIPROCAL SOVIET ACTION, "HAVE BEEN NOTED".

8. THE STATEMENT ENDS ON A SOMEWHAT MORE FAVORABLE NOTE, EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE THE SOVIET UNION ASCRIBES TO CONSULTATION WITH THE US ON CSCE MATTERS.

9. IN REPLY TO THE STATEMENT, THE ACTING DCM FIRST WELCOMED THE CONTINUATION OF THE SOVIET-US DIALOGUE ON CSCE. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL POINTS IN THE SOVIET STATEMENT WHICH MIKHAILOV HAD HANDED HIM ON WHICH THE US INTERPRETATION DIFFERED, AND SEVERAL WHICH WE CANNOT ACCEPT AT ALL. IN THIS LATTER CATEGORY, HE SAID, ESPECIALLY PROMINENT WERE THE STATEMENT'S ASSERTIONS ON THE RADIOS. HE SAID THAT THE STATEMENT WOULD BE REPORTED TO WASHINGTON, AND WE WOULD IN DUE COURSE RESPOND TO IT.

10. COMMENT: THIS STATEMENT IS SHARPER IN ITS CRITICISM OF THE US THAN THE NOVEMBER 12 STATEMENT. ITS LANGUAGE ON THE RADIOS, INCLUDING THAT OF THE VOICE OF AMERICA, IS MORE BLUNTLY PHRASED; IT THIS TIME INCLUDES VAGUE, CONFIDENTIAL

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UNDEFINED CRITICISM OF OUR POLICY VIS-A-VIS SOVIET CONSTITUENT REPUBLICS; AND IT RASISES HARASSMENT OF SOVIET ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE US AND ITS REPLIES TO THE SUGGESTIONS ON CONSULTATIONS IN VARIOUS AREAS WHICH WE PUT FORTH IN OUR MARCH 3 DEMARCHE ARE AT BEST LUKEWARM. ITS ASSERTION OF CONTINUING SOVIET INTEREST IN CONSULTATION WITH US IS ENCOURAGING, HOWEVER--EVEN IF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE STATEMENT ITSELF INDICATES THAT THE SOVIETS SEEM AT THE MOMENT CONTENT TO TREAD WATER UNTIL THEY HAVE A CLEARER INDICATION IN WHICH DIRECTION OUR RELATIONS WILL BE MOVING.

11. DEPARTMENT REPEAT AS DESIRED.
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